

CLASSIFICATION: **CONFIDENTIAL**
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950

SUBJECT Military - Naval operation

DATE/DIST. 7 Jun 1950

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

NO. OF PAGES 2

WHERE PUBLISHED Zürich

DATE PUBLISHED 4 May 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE German

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U.S.C. 31 AND 32. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Die Tat, No 119, 1950.

SOVIET BALTIC FLEET EXPANDS

The following is quoted from the Elseviers Weekblad, a weekly newspaper published in Amsterdam, Holland:

In his speech before Swedish naval officers on 22 February 1950, Admiral Stromback, Commander-in-Chief of the Swedish Navy, referred to the increasing strength of the Soviet Baltic Fleet. He questioned the significance of re-settling the German population from the Baltic Sea shores to the interior of Mecklenburg and of the activities in the ports of Warnemünde, Stralsund, Rostock, and Wismar, as well as on the Island of Rügen, the new Red Gibraltar.

The Swedish admiral maintained that the Soviet Navy has most of its submarines and battleships in the Baltic Sea, although this has been denied by the Soviet Union. He contrasted the requested expansion of the Swedish Navy by eight (from 12 to 20) torpedo boat chasers, by 12 (from eight to 20) escort vessels and by the construction of other torpedo boat chasers, with the fact that the shipyard of Kronshtadt is working on the 35,000-ton battleship Sovetskiy Soyuz with its 40.6-centimeter guns, rocket-launching devices, and a speed of 30 knots. He pointed out that Kronshtadt houses the former German 10,000-ton cruiser Deutschland and the former 10,000-ton heavy cruisers Lotzow (now Petropavlovsk) and Seydlitz (now Poltava), each of which reach a speed of 32 knots and have eight 18-centimeter guns in four gun turrets. Moreover, in Kronshtadt lie the former 6,000-ton Nürnberg (now Marakov) with its six 18-centimeter guns in three gun turrets; four modern 9,000-ton cruisers of the Kirov class; Kirov, Maxim Gor'kiy, Tsyapayev, and Tsyarakov, which reach a speed of 33 knots and have nine 18-centimeter guns; twenty-one 2,500-2,900-ton torpedo boat chasers and many submarines.

More important than these figures is the creation of a naval base on the Island of Rügen which is larger and better fortified than Leningrad-Kronshtadt. This new base is located much closer to the English Channel, North Sea, and Atlantic Ocean than Kronshtadt, Baltishport (now Paldiski), Libau (now Lepaya), etc. The Rügen arsenal is supplied partly from the ports of Libau and Memel (now Klaypeda), partly from the Island of Usedom, and partly from Rostock, Warnemünde, and Wismar, all of which, since modernized and expanded, are suitable for repair of the largest ships. Recently two 15,000-ton warships, the keels of which were laid by the Germans in 1944, were launched at these ports.

- 1 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION		CONFIDENTIAL									
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB	<input type="checkbox"/> FBI	DISTRIBUTION							
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI	<input type="checkbox"/>								

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

The Swedish admiral warned that the USSR is concentrating on the expansion of its submarine fleet which is to amount to 1,000 submarines by the end of 1950. Being able to reach the North Sea and Atlantic Ocean via Kattegat and Skagerrak, they would be able to attack, or even destroy, any enemy. It is also assumed that, in case of war, the Soviet Union will at once occupy the Danish island of Bornholm.

- E N D -

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL